Handwriting at Gainford CofE Primary School
Progression of Skills EYFS to Year 6

Handwriting is the explicit teaching of letter formation and joins. Effective handwriting impacts the wider curriculum and the development of the whole child. We want all of our children to take pride in their presentation. We follow the Improvement in School through Handwriting and Art Scheme (ISHA) by Martin Harvey and Debbie Watson, which is taught and reinforced throughout the curriculum.

Good Habits for Handwriting

- BBC – Bottom at the back of the chair.
- TNT – Tummy near to the table.
- Legs Set – 4 chair legs and 2 feet touching the floor.
- Pencil Grip – tripod grip; left-handed children approximately 2cm from the tip and right-handed children approximately 1cm from the tip.
- Hands Set – one hand steadies the paper, one hand holds the pencil.

Handwriting Progression Overview

Phase	Focus	Key Milestones
EYFS Nursery	Move and dance following the programme, 'Squiggle Movement and Squiggle whilst you Wiggle' Can be combined with 'Dough Disco'	Each move (dance and drawing) to last approximately 3 weeks. repetition of both means gross motor movement and fine muscle drawing are embedded.
EYFS Reception	Gross and fine motor development, pre-writing patterns, name writing	Correct posture, pencil control, letter formation in print
Year 1	Letter family formation and pre-cursive exits	Secure lower-case and capital formation, numbers 0-9
Year 2	Cursive joins	Consistent sizing, ascenders/descenders, break letters
Years 3-4	Fluency and application	Automatic joins and presentation across curriculum
Years 5-6	Speed, stamina and adaptation	Legible personal style and purposeful presentation

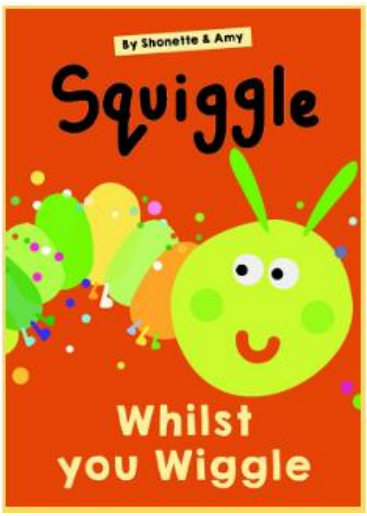
Letter Families

Family	Letters	Description
Straight Line	i, l, j, t	Single vertical downstroke
Coat hanger	c, o, a, d, g, q, e	Counter-clockwise curved letters
Bridge	m, n, r, h, b, k, p	Downstroke followed by bridge/bounce
Zig-Zag	v, w	Diagonal formation
Smile Pair	u, y	Curve back to top before descending
Misfits	s, f, x, z	Unique formations

Progression of early handwriting skills in EYFS

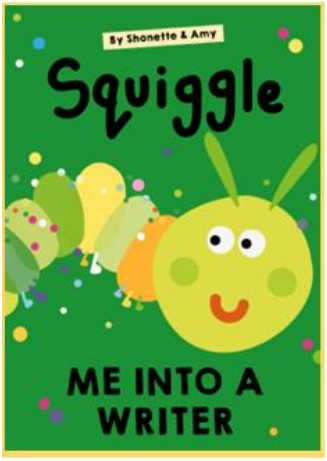
Nursery 3-4 year-olds

Weeks	Move/dance
1-3	Move 1: Up and down, side to side, cross over
4-6	Move 2: The wiggle
7-9	Move 3: The circle
10-12	Move 4: The hump and Move 4 (part 2): The under hump
13-15	Move 5: The hook
16-18	Move 6: The spiral
19-21	Move 7: The wave
22-24	Move 8: Laid down 8 (then stand me up straight!)
25-27	Move 9: The straight line



Reception 4-5 year-olds

Weeks	Group of letters to be taught (see lesson planning)
1	m a s d
2	t i n p g
3	c o k u
4	b f e l
5	h r j
6	v y w z x
7	q u
8	sh ch th wh



Progression across a year in Nursery

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Squiggle Early Writing Programme	Wiggle me into a squiggle 1 move per week *(weeks 1-6)*	Wiggle me into a squiggle 1 move per week *(weeks 7-10)* Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 1 *(3 weeks)*	Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 *(3 weeks)* Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 3 *(3 weeks)*	Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 4 *(3 weeks)* Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 5 *(3 weeks)*	Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 6 *(3 weeks)* Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 7 *(3 weeks)*	Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 8 *(3 weeks)* Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Move 9 *(3 weeks)*

Progression across a year in Reception

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Squiggle Early Writing Programme	Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Recap one move per week (weeks 1-5)	Squiggle while you wiggle 2.0 - Recap one move per week (weeks 6-9) Squiggle me into a writer	Squiggle me into a writer	Squiggle me into a writer	Squiggle me into a writer	Squiggle me into a writer

Progression of Letter Families by Term Year 1 – Year 6

Year Group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Straight Line Family (i,l,j,t) Coat hanger Family (c,o,a,d,g,q,e) Bridge Family m, n, r, h, b, k, p Zig-Zag Family: v, w Smile Pair: u, y Misfits: s, f, x, z	Straight Line Family (i,l,j,t) Coat hanger Family (c,o,a,d,g,q,e) All capital letters. Number formation (Once completed, repeat to ensure letter formation and letter size is correct for the first two letter families.)	Bridge Family m, n, r, h, b, k, p Zig-Zag Family: v, w Smile Pair: u, y Misfits: s, f, x, z All capital letters. Number Formation Write first and last name in pre cursive. (Once completed, repeat to ensure letter formation and letter size is correct for the final two letter families and more complex letters.)
Year 2	Revision of all families and sizing **Cursive Script** First join – diagonal join to short letters (letters without ascenders or descenders): ai, am, an, ao, ar, au, ca, ci, co, cu, sa, se, si, sm, sn, so, ss, st, su, sw, ia, im, in, io, ir, iu	**Cursive Script** First join – diagonal join to letters without ascenders, and then with ascenders and descenders: ma, mi, mm, mo, mu na, nc, ne, ni, nn, no, nu, ua, ui, um, un, uo, ag, aj, ab, ah, ak, al, at, ch, ck, cl, ct	**Cursive Script** First join – diagonal join to letters with ascenders and descenders: sb, sh, sk, sl, st, sp, el, eb, eh, ek, el, et, ih, ik, ill, it, ig, ip, mp, np, nd, ug, up, ub, uh, uk, ul, ut
Year 3	**Cursive Script** First join – diagonal join from letters with ascenders: da, di, do, du, dy First join – diagonal join from letters with ascenders: ha, he, hi, ho, hu, ka, ke, ki, ko, ku First join – diagonal join from letters with ascenders: la, le, li, lm, lo, lp, lu, bu, ba, be, bi, bo, br, bs	**Cursive Script** First join – diagonal join to the letter 'c': ac, ec, ic, lc, uc First join – diagonal join to the letter 's': as, cs, ds, es, hs, is, ks, ls, ms, ns, ts, us First join – diagonal join to the letter 'e': ae, ce, de, ee, he, ie, ke, le, me, ne, ue,	**Cursive Script** First join – diagonal join from letters with descenders: qu, pu, pa, pe, pi, pl, po, pr, ps Second join – horizontal join: oa, oc, od, oe, og, oi, oj, om, on, oo, or, os, ou, ov, ow, ox, oy, oz Application across the whole curriculum

Year 4	Cursive Script Refine spacing and joins Second join – horizontal join: ra, rg, ri, rm, rn, ro, rp, rr, rs, ru, va, vi, vo, vs, vu, wa, wi, wn, wo, ws, wu, wy Second join – horizontal join to the letter 'e': oe, re, ve, we	Cursive Script Fluency in extended writing Third join – diagonal join from a letter with an ascender/descender to a letter with an ascender/descender: Ib, kl, ll, ph, pl, pt, bl, th, tt Third join – horizontal join from to a letter with an ascender: ob, oh, ok, ol, ot, rt Fourth join – join to letters with hooks, lines and loops: ja, je, ji, jo, ju, fa, fe, fi, fo, fr, ft, fu	Cursive Script Presentation and speed Fourth join – join to letters with hooks, lines and loops: ga, ge, gi, gl, go, gr, gs, gu, wh, ya, ye, yi, yo, yu Practise writing words with capital letters. Practise combining all 4 joins when writing sentences. Final consolidation of all joins.
UKS2	Pupils will focus on maintaining a consistent and fluent style. They will work towards earning a 'pen licence'. Pupils will practice maintaining legibility when writing at speed. Pupils will continue to improve handwriting through writing more sustained passages of writing, both copied and from their imagination.		
Year 5	**Cursive Script** Maintain legibility at speed	**Cursive Script** Adapt handwriting for purpose	**Cursive Script** Develop personal fluent style
Year 6	**Cursive Script** Efficient note-taking and stamina	**Cursive Script** Presentation for SATs and secondary transition	**Cursive Script** Independent choice of print/cursive

Teachers: For further guidance on individual handwriting lessons see the document

'Achieving Excellence in Handwriting'

Fonts to be used consistently for resources and lesson presentations

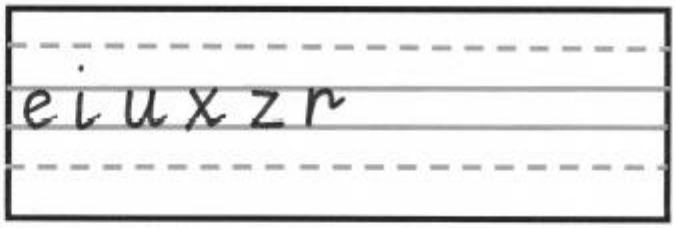
KS1 – Twinkl, Twinkl light

KS2 – Twinkl Cursive Unlooped, Twinkl Cursive Unlooped thin

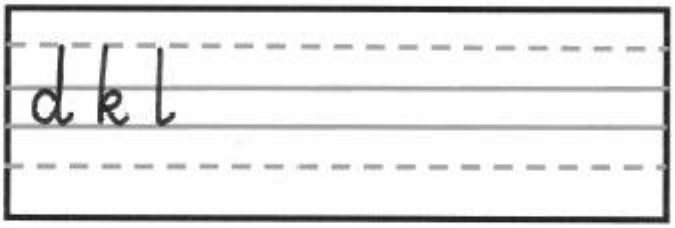
Handwriting lines on slides need to match those in books e.g.

Language

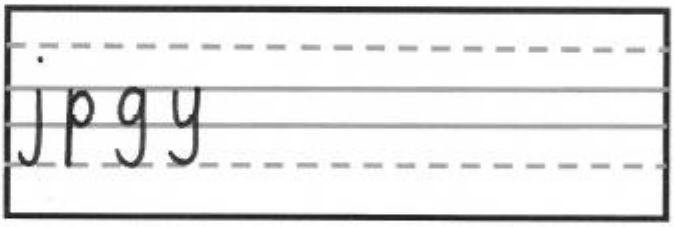
Small letters



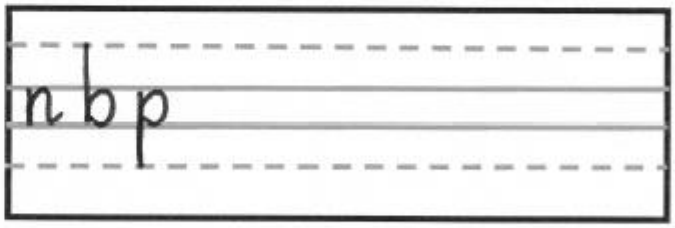
Tall letters



Tail letters



Narrow letters



Letters with sharp points



Narrow curved tails



Joins

Joining pairs of letters

No Join

All of the tail letters are break letters. They do not join on to the next letter.

g j y q do not join onto the next letter.

go go

ji ji

ye ye

qu qu

br bi be

br bi be

pa pi pe

pa pi pe

st se si

st se si